

HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended

31st December, 1952

W. D. Cruickshank, M.B., Ch.B.
and E. Melson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



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Health and Sanitary Committee

(As composed 31st December, 1952)

Mr. Councillor C. SWAN (Chairman of the Council).

Mr. Councillor J. JACQUES (Chairman of the Committee).

Councillor Mrs. D. ATKINS, J.P., C.C. (Vice Chairman of the Committee).

Councillor Dr. M. O. CRUICKSHANK, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Mr. Councillor G. E. DEARING, M.B.E.

Mr. Councillor R. A. LUMB, B.A.

Mr. Councillor T. O. McGRAH.

Mr. Councillor J. WADDINGTON.

Mr. Councillor H. WILSON, M.B.E., C.C.

Mr. Councillor T. C. WORMLEIGHTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
of the
HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

W. D. CRUICKSHANK, M.B., Ch.B. (Aberdeen).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

E. MELSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (1.2.3.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. DEAMER, M.S.I.A. (1.2.4.)

Sanitary Inspectors :

L. F. WHITMORE, M.S.I.A. (1.2.)

F. D. T. GEORGE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (1.2.3)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

R. C. LIGGINS.

Clerks :

MRS. E. E. CLARK.

B. R. FARMER.

Rodent Operator :

T. FITZPATRICK.

1. Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.
2. Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and other Foods Inspectors Certificate.
3. Royal Sanitary Institute Diploma for Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
4. Part I. of the Sanitary Inspectors Association Diploma in Sanitary Science.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Hinckley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1952.

Infectious Disease

There was a considerable rise in the notifications of scarlet fever cases, mostly school children in Barwell and Earl Shilton. Steps are being taken to improve certain sanitary defects at their schools.

The number of cases of Dysentery and Food Poisoning rose but did not assume the character of an epidemic.

Measles cases were slightly lower than last year but the usual biennial appearance of this complaint seems to be giving way to an annual visitation as far as this district is concerned.

Whilst on this subject I cannot refrain from commenting on the delay in the receipt in the Health Office of notification of cases of infectious disease, often so late as to preclude any effective action being taken to assist in preventing spread, and sometimes so late as to be useless even for statistical purposes.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I am not satisfied with our figure of 54% of children protected. Diphtheria is a killing disease and will certainly appear again unless banished by the simple and safe method of immunisation.

Tuberculosis

The halving of the number of cases of tuberculosis is probably due to a number of cases which would otherwise have come to light in the current year being diagnosed at the Mass X-Ray Unit which visited the district in the Autumn of 1951. The unit will visit us again in the autumn of 1953.

Food Hygiene.

Every effort is being made to maintain, and where possible, improve the present standard.

Death Rate.

At 8.9 per thousand of the population this shows a fall on last year, and is well below the national average and the average for towns of comparable size.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

This has fallen to a figure well below the average for the last ten years.

Town Mortuary.

I have for some years been acutely conscious of the pressing need for improved conditions for the reception of the bodies of those who have died in accidents or other circumstances necessitating the use of a public mortuary. The opportunity has occurred to acquire premises, adjoining the present Health Department offices, which are suitable for conversion to this purpose and for concentrating some of the outlying activities of the department in one central site. I trust that the somewhat prolonged negotiations now taking place may have a satisfactory conclusion before I draft my next annual report.

General Health of the Community.

This remains satisfactory and I see no evidence of any general nutritional deficiency.

Housing Survey.

In the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of this report it will be noted that there are many substandard houses. I feel very strongly that so long as bad housing conditions exist, both the physical and moral health of the inhabitants must suffer, and I hope the time is not far distant when it may be possible to go full speed ahead on slum clearance.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(For comparative purposes last year's figures have been inserted in brackets).

Area in Acres		11.882
Registrar General's estimate of population		39,080 (38,980)
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/52		11,884 (11,712)
Product of a penny rate at 31/3/52	...	£808/0/1 (£797/0/1)
Rateable value at 31/3/52		£201,514 (£198,891)

Social Conditions

The main industries of the district are the manufacture of hosiery which includes underwear and outerwear, and boots and shoes. There is also a large dyers and cleaners, some engineering and many trades ancillary to the two main industries. The industries are of a light textile nature and none of the occupations seem to have an injurious effect on health. Much of the female labour is drawn from the neighbouring districts which causes a daily mingling of population. Whilst no serious epidemic of infectious disease has arisen from this situation it may account for sporadic cases.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births ...	282	323	605 (683)
Legitimate ...	264	314	578 (651)
Illegitimate ...	18	9	27 (32)

Birth Rate—15.48 (17.5) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births ...	7	3	10 (17)
Legitimate ...	7	2	9 (14)
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1 (3)

Rate (still births) per 1,000 population .25 (.43).

Deaths

Death Rate—8.9 (10.05) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths, Males 173, females 175, total 348 (392).

Deaths from puerperal causes, Nil (Nil).

Deaths from other maternal cases, Nil (3).

Infantile Mortality Rate, 26.44 (46.8).

(Rate per 1,000 live births).

	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under one year of age ...	8 (16)	8 (16)
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ...	4 (9)	8 (9)

VITAL STATISTICS—COMPARATIVE TABLE

	Birth rate per 1,000 population		Death rate per 1,000 population. All causes	Rate per 1,000 live births. Total deaths under 1 year
	Live Births	Still Births		
England and Wales ..	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	16.9	0.43	12.1	31.2
160 smaller towns, 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	15.5	0.36	11.2	25.8
London Administrative County	17.6	0.34	12.6	23.8
HINCKLEY U.D.C. ..	15.48*	0.25	8.9*	26.44

*The corrected figures for the birth and death rates after the crude rates have been multiplied by the area comparability factors are 14.86 and 10.32 respectively.

Other Mortality Statistics

				1952	1951
	Male	Female	Total	Total	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory..	2	3	5	7	
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	-	1	1	-	
3. Syphilitic disease ...	-	1	1	3	
4. Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	
5. Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	
6. Meningococcal Infections	1	-	1	-	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	
8. Measles ...	-	-	-	-	
9. Other Infective and Para- sitic Diseases ...	-	2	2	2	
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	6	4	10	7	
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	6	4	10	12	
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	5	5	4	
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	6	6	4	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms...	16	17	33	36	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1	-	
16. Diabetes ...	-	2	2	6	
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	30	31	61	56	
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	27	13	40	26	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	7	11	18	27	
20. Other Heart Disease ...	19	25	44	54	
21. Other Circulatory Disease	7	3	10	14	
22. Influenza ...	1	-	1	7	
23. Pneumonia ...	6	2	8	6	
24. Bronchitis ...	12	8	20	25	
25. Other Diseases of Res- piratory System ...	3	-	3	2	
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3	2	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	-	1	1	

Other Mortality Statistics (con.)

	Male	Female	Total 1952	Total 1951
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	6	7	10
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2	3
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	3
31. Congenital Malformations	3	2	5	6
32. Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases ...	13	20	33	52
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3	4
34. All other accidents ...	5	6	11	11
35. Suicide	-	1	1	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	173	175	348	392
	(195)	(197)		

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. The Public Health Officers of the Authority are set out on Page three of the report.

2. Laboratory Facilities

Examinations are almost wholly performed at the Public Health Laboratory at the Groby Road Hospital, Leicester, which is under the control of Dr. N. S. Mair.

Chemical examination of water samples is formed by Mr. S. B. Bratley, F.C.S., of Oadby. Occasional chemical examination of food is made by the Leicester City Public Analyst, Mr. F. C. Bullock, B.Sc., F.I.C.

The following specimens were examined during the year at the Public Health Laboratory:—

Throat and nose swabs	...	...	...	...	60
Fæces and urine	...	...	...	...	394
Blood	...	...	...	...	7
Sputa	...	...	...	...	259
Milk	...	...	...	...	98
Water	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	20
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	140
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1,012

3. Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation

	Children	
	Under five years	5—14 years
Total number immunised during year ..	414 (437)	22 (27)
Total number immunised since beginning of scheme	5105	5017
Number of children receiving booster dose of immunisation	345 (301)	

The number of children protected by immunisation is slightly more than last year, but the percentage of children so protected is about 54.5 which is inadequate. I must repeat my remarks of last year to the effect that at least 75% of all babies should be immunised before they are one year old.

The response to immunisation seems to remain steady at the present inadequate level. The system now in operation to get immunisation performed appears to be satisfactory, but now is the time for the extra effort to increase the numbers to reach 75% or even higher.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows the diseases occurring during 1952 and the distribution of them:—

Disease	Hinckley Central Wards	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	21(17)	66(5)	4(15)	62(22)	153(59)
Erysipelas	2(2)	1(—)	1(1)	1(4)	5(7)
Pneumonia	11(13)	2(—)	6(12)	5(3)	24(28)
Dysentery	6(42)	2(—)	—(6)	—(1)	8(49)
Puerperal Fever ..	1(1)	—(—)	2(—)	—(—)	3(1)
Measles	322(322)	24(72)	60(129)	108(71)	514(594)
Whooping Cough ..	49(82)	31(12)	29(30)	18(14)	127(138)
Meningitis	1(1)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1(1)
Food Poisoning ..	—(18)	1(1)	—(3)	—(—)	1(22)
Encephalitis	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1(—)	1(—)
TOTALS ..	413(498)	127(90)	102(196)	195(115)	837(899)

AGE GROUPS AND SEX

Disease				U N D E R						Over 25	Age unknown	Total		TOTAL
												M	F	
				1	3	5	10	15	25					
Scarlet	..	..	M	1	8	23	50	5	1			88		153
Fever	..	..	F		3	16	41	4	1				65	
Erysipelas	..	..	M											5
			F							5			5	
Pneumonia	..	..	M		1		2	1		10		14		24
			F			2	1	1	1	5			10	
Dysentery	..	..	M			1	1					2		8
			F				2	1	1	2			6	
Puerperal	..	..	M											3
Fever	..	..	F							3			3	
Measles	..	..	M	8	58	54	140		3			263		514
			F	8	54	71	112	3	1		2		251	
Whooping	..	..	M	2	18	13	28		1	1		63		127
Cough	..	..	F	5	14	26	18			1			64	
Meningitis	..	..	M				1					1		1
			F											
Food	..	..	M											1
Poisoning	..	..	F							1			1	
Encephalitis	..	..	M			1						1		1
			F											
TOTALS .. M				11	85	92	222	6	5	11		432		837
.. F				13	71	115	174	9	4	17	2		405	

National Assistance Act 1948, s.47.

Attention was drawn to six aged persons who were in need of care and attention.

Five were persuaded to go to a hospital and in one case an Order had to be applied for to the Magistrates for removal of an aged woman to a County Home.

Attention was first drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions under which this old woman was living on 26th May, 1952. When she was inclined to go to a County Home voluntarily, no bed was available. Ultimately an Order was obtained on the 19th December, 1952 under the Act of 1948 as amended by the 1951 Amendment Act for her removal and detention, but no bed was available until the 14th January, 1953. It would appear the accommodation provided for aged women is inadequate and action should be taken to provide sufficient accommodation in the County Homes to enable cases such as this to obtain the care and attention they need so badly much more promptly.

I wish to stress the fact that every effort is made to

- (i) persuade the aged persons to agree to help being provided in their own home, or

- (ii) to go to a hospital or County Home voluntarily before an Order for compulsory removal is applied for.

Forty visits were made to aged persons who were alleged to be in need of care and attention.

Tuberculosis

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under s.172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Forty new cases were added to the register during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1952.

Age	New Cases 1952				Deaths, 1952			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. 5 years ..	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	1
.. 15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
.. 25	1	6	4	—	—	—	—	—
.. 35	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. 45	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
.. 55	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Over 55	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	9	20	7	4	1	3	—	1

DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Hinckley (Cent'l Wards)	2 (14)	8 (18)	3 (2)	— (2)
Barwell	1 (6)	2 (—)	2 (—)	1 (1)
Earl Shilton	2 (3)	1 (2)	— (—)	1 (1)
Burbage	1 (5)	6 (5)	2 (—)	2 (—)
Stoke Golding	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)
Inw'd transfers of cases arising outside the area	3 (1)	3 (4)	— (—)	— (—)
TOTALS	9 (29)	20 (30)	7 (3)	4 (4)

Conclusion

Once again it is my most pleasant duty to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Health and Sanitary Committee my thanks for the support which you are kind enough to extend to me, and I thank Mr. Melson and all other members of the department for their loyal help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant.

W. D. CRUICKSHANK.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hinckley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-fifth Annual Report upon the administration of your Sanitary Inspectors' Department.

During the year a considerable proportion of the survey of sub-standard houses was completed and a report upon the survey is set out on page 24.

In May, I asked the Health and Sanitary Committee to request the Housing and Town Planning Committee to allocate a definite percentage of houses for rehousing persons living in unfit houses and thus enable the removal of the unfit houses to be proceeded with. After preparing a report for both Committees setting out that 87 houses which housed 251 persons needed urgent treatment, the Housing Committee made a token allocation for this purpose.

Since then it has become apparent that in many cases, the people living in houses scheduled as unfit are also the same people in the higher pointed groups of the Council's housing applicants' lists and I am pleased to note the Housing and Town Planning Committee are as anxious as the Health and Sanitary Committee to see that the unfit houses are removed and their occupants provided with satisfactory housing accommodation.

Progress is still being made in our Clean Food Campaign, one hundred per cent. meat and food inspection is still being performed and the results we have obtained following biological sampling of milk have again shown that it is a well worth while job. Other spheres of activity have received attention as my report will show.

I wish to express my thanks to the Members and Officers of the Council for their support and co-operation and especially to Dr. W. D. Cruickshank, the Medical Officer of Health, and to the members of my staff.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant,

E. MELSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

1952

Sanitary Circumstances of the area

1. WATER SUPPLY

Quality.

The water supply for the district is obtained from two sources. (a) Deep well water from Snarestone which is augmented by a supply from a borehole at Chilcote. (b) Reservoir water from Thornton, part of the City of Leicester Waterworks, which is supplied to the district via the Borough of Nuneaton.

Both waters are of a satisfactory quality and both are chlorinated.

Quantity.

The water supply was maintained throughout the year although the quantity of water available is about equal to the demand. An additional supply is required and this may be met to some degree around 1955 by increasing the quantity made available for our use through the existing arrangement with the Borough of Nuneaton. It is to be hoped that a fully satisfactory alternative supply will ultimately become available through the River Dove Scheme which is being considered by a committee composed of members from interested authorities.

Examination of Water Supplies.

Eight samples of town water were submitted for chemical examination and 10 for bacteriological examination.

All the samples were certified as satisfactory and fit for drinking and dietetic purposes.

Copies of the analyst's reports are set out for

(a) the Snarestone deep well water and

(b) the Thornton reservoir water.

Sample (a)

Sample of town water from 7. High Street, Barwell, on the 29th July, 1952.

	Parts per 100,000
Total solids	74.0
Loss on ignition	24.0
Free ammonia	0
Albuminoid ammonia	0.004
Nitrogen	0.123
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	0.048
Chlorine	7.4
Total hardness	40.0
Permanent hardness	23.0
Temporary hardness	17.0
Lead and copper	absent

Sample (a) (con.)

Parts per 100,000

p.H.	...	...	...	...	...	7.5
Bacterial count at 37°C.	...	...	...	...	6 organisms per C.C.	
Bacterial count at 22°C.	...	...	...	...	18 organisms per C.C.	
Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	...	absent in 10. C.C.'s	
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	none	

In my opinion this water is free from sewage and safe for drinking and dietetic purposes.

(Signed) SAMUEL B. BRATLEY,

F.C.S., Analytical and Consulting Chemist.

Sample (b)

Sample of town water from the Sketchley Dye Works Canteen on the 18th March, 1952.

						Parts per 100,000
Total solids	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	...	...	unweighable
Free ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.004
Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0.082
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	...	0.064
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	2.3
Chlorine available	...	...	...	...	less than 0.1 per million	
Total hardness	...	...	...	...	...	9.6
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	...	4.5
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	...	5.1
p.H.	...	...	...	...	...	8.0
Lead and copper	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Bacterial count at 37°C.	...	...	...	...	2 organisms per C.C.	
Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	...	absent in 10. C.C.'s	

Remarks.

I find no evidence of pollution by sewage and I consider the water safe for drinking and dietetic purposes.

(Signed) SAMUEL B. BRATLEY.

The p.H. value of the samples varied from 7.0 to 8.6 and the chemical composition of the water would appear to prevent any likelihood of plumbo-solvent action.

Well water supplies.

Five samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination. All were declared to be unsatisfactory. As the wells were used in connection with premises well beyond the reach of the town's mains the occupiers were called upon to clean out the wells and take appropriate steps to prevent surface pollution. Further samples will be taken when the wells have "settled" from this treatment.

Particulars of water supply to dwelling houses in the district.

Almost the whole of the population have an internal supply of town water, there being 11,533 houses containing 37,930 people in this position.

245 houses and 732 persons have a supply of town water from external standposts, and

106 houses and 318 persons are dependent upon well or spring supplies.

The houses where external standposts exist are mainly of a low standard, and I anticipate the majority of them will have been cleared within the next 5 years or so.

The houses on a well or spring supply are isolated to a varying degree, and whilst the number may be slightly lessened when the Rogues Lane farms are dealt with, I cannot see much possibility of any further reduction owing to the high cost of distribution under these circumstances.

2. Sewerage.

Strathmore Road storm water relief sewer.

A certificate was given to support this scheme when application was made for its approval to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The nuisance caused by flooding was first drawn to my notice in July, 1946. I am pleased to say approval was received from the Ministry, and it is anticipated the work will be completed early in the new year.

Stoke Golding part of Trinity Ward.

The sewerage system for this village is inadequate. A scheme to remedy this condition was prepared in 1939 and deferred owing to the war, it has been submitted for approval to the Ministry twice since, once during 1952, and approval has not yet been received to proceed with the work.

This is a great pity, as there is a modern sewage disposal works only being partially used, the village has a piped water supply and, if the sewerage scheme was completed, half of the total pail closets in the whole of the district could quite soon be converted to the water carriage system, further the use of the field on the northern side of the village for the treatment of sewage by the land irrigation method could cease or be used to a much less degree.

3. Sewage Disposal

The extension of the main disposal works at Sketchley is now in progress. Approval was given to approximately half of the scheme put forward by the Council.

4. Cesspools.

A survey of the sanitary circumstances of the district was performed towards the end of the year, and the position regarding cesspools is set out in the following summary. (This summary deals with cesspools to which properties are entirely drained).

Cesspools, Summary for District

	No. of properties drained to cesspools	No. of farms drained to cesspools	No. of Septic tanks included	T O T A L	
				Cesspools	Septic Tanks
Hinckley .. (Cen. Wards)	70	3	2	43	2
Barwell	12	6	3	14	3
Burbage ..	18	3	6	13	6
Earl Shilton	15	4		18	
Sketchley ..	11			5	
Stoke Gold'g	18	1	1	11	1
Smockington	2			1	
Wykin ..	7	3		10	
TOTAL	153	20	12	115	12

The cesspools are mainly situated around the periphery of the wards, e.g., in the Hinckley Central Wards they are situated in Coventry Road, beyond the approach road to the garage, in Watling Street, Nutts Lane and in Leicester Road, from a point on both sides, just past Bradgate Road.

Five new cesspools were constructed during the year, and 3 were abolished and the drainage systems connected to the public sewers.

5. Sanitary Accommodation.

There are 11,334 water closets and 219 pail closets in the Urban District.

331 new water closets were provided, 3 being provided in lieu of 3 pail closets.

The situation of the pail closets is set out in the following summary.

PAIL CLOSETS, SUMMARY FOR DISTRICT

	Hinckley (Cen. Wards)	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	Sketchley	Smockington	Stoke Gold'g	Wykin	TOTALS
Scheduled Properties	7	8	2	9			42	10	78
Properties where no sewer ..	8		15	3	4	6	34	4	74
Farms where sewer or water unavailable	9	13	8	7		1	5	1	44
Other properties	3			1			19		23
TOTALS	27	21	25	20	4	7	100	15	219

This summary is self explanatory. The number of pail closets at Stoke Golding should be considered in connection with my remarks under item 2, Sewerage on page 14.

There are no privy middens, privies or fixed ashpits in the area.

In 1936, when the Urban District Council's area was extended there were 20 privy middens or privies, 479 pail closets and many fixed ashpits.

The present position has been reached by steady and persistent work to obtain removal or conversion of these abominations **without** the stimulus of any grant being made available under s.47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

6. Public Cleansing.

House refuse collection and disposal is dealt with by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor. Six low side loading Karrier Bantam vehicles are used for refuse collection.

House refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjoining Heath Lane, Earl Shilton, and trade refuse by partial controlled tipping at Barwell where much of the combustible type of trade refuse is burnt.

The Heath Lane tip continues to be operated in a very satisfactory manner.

No complaints were received throughout the year regarding either of the tips.

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout most of the year.

7. Dust-bins.

During the year 438 inspections were made at 181 houses regarding the provision of satisfactory dustbins. The difficulties associated with the work of maintaining satisfactory refuse receptacles were eased during the year by the increased number of better quality bins which became available.

In 79 instances informal notice was given and at the end of the year 47 of these notices had been complied with. The outstanding 32 notices all relate to houses under one owner, and at the end of the year bins were being provided for them.

No Statutory notices were served under s.75 of the Public Health Act 1936, one was authorised but a bin was provided before the notice was actually served.

8. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Complaints.

353 recorded complaints were received.

120 concerned public health matters.

117 concerned housing deficiencies, and

116 concerned rats, mice, insects, etc.

Premises.

1,151 premises were inspected relating to 1,399 nuisances or defects which were discovered and dealt with.

Number of Inspections.

	Initial Inspections	Revisits
Accumulations	17	34
Animal keeping	72	54
Dustbins and Refuse Collection ...	229	273
Drainage Inspections	190	176
Nuisances	374	1,371
Moveable Dwellings	42	128
Smoke Abatement	19	68
Housing	846	664
Overcrowding	69	13
Verminous Premises	24	16
Water Supply	6	27
Food and Water Sampling	168	-
Rats and Mice Destruction	327	980
Food Premises	357	531
Ice Cream Premises	22	27
Food Poisoning Investigations ...	35	12
Meat and Food Inspection	548	156
Market Inspections	6	70
Dairies	12	35
Factories' Act	27	53
Infectious Diseases	203	39
Dysentery Investigations	28	-
National Assistance Act s.47 ...	40	-
National Assistance Act s.50 ...	11	-
Rag Flock Act	8	8
Pet Animals' Act	9	25
Old Metal Dealers' Order	8	11
Other Inspections	1,100	223
	4,797	4,994

GRAND TOTAL - 9,791

10 NOTICES

Informal.

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	55	36
Issued during year	153	137
Complied with during year	138	135
Statutory action necessary	-	2
Outstanding 31st December	57	29

Statutory.

Housing Public Health

Outstanding on 1st January	...	...	6	3
Issued during year	...	...	-	2
Complied with during year	...	...	6	3
Outstanding 31st December	...	...	-	2

11. Summary Action.

Three summonses were issued and convictions were recorded in all cases.

One summons was for a contravention of s.9 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for selling food unfit for human consumption. A dead mouse was found in a 1 lb. packet of sugar. Defendant was fined £5.

Two summonses were for contraventions of s.93 and s.39 of the Public Health Act 1936. Defendant was fined £5 and a daily penalty of £1 was to be inflicted if the nuisance was not abated in 28 days.

12. SHOPS ACT

19 inspections were made at 10 premises. 5 contraventions were found, 3 being abated at the end of the year.

The provisions of the Shop Acts are borne in mind when shops and warehouses are being inspected under the Food and Drugs Act and Shops' Act items are drawn to the attention of the occupier or owner.

The Health and Sanitary Committee decided to make an Order fixing days of weekly half-holiday, closing at 1 p.m. for all trades as follows:—

Shops in Barwell, Earl Shilton and the Stoke Golding part of Trinity Ward to be on Wednesday.

In Hinckley and Burbage to be on Thursday, or at the option of the shopkeeper in either case to be on Saturday.

There were 599 shops on the register at the end of the year

13. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are no licensed sites in the Urban district.

170 inspections were made relating to 44 moveable dwellings or sites.

14 new applications were received during the year, one being refused and 13 being granted subject to

- (I) the sanitary conditions being satisfactory, and
- (II) planning approval being received from the County Planning authority (The sanitary facilities required before a licence is granted are,
 - (a) a satisfactory wholesome water supply
 - (b) adequate closet and drainage accommodation,

(c) a suitable amount of paving,

(d) a suitable refuse receptacle,

(e) the moveable dwelling to be of weatherproof construction and

(f) it shall not be overcrowded or create a nuisance contrary to s.268 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

(III) the licence shall terminate on December 31st of each year.

Three of the applications were not proceeded with, in two cases owing to the difficulty in complying with the sanitary conditions.

Five licences were issued during the year when our sanitary conditions had been met and approval from the planning authority had been received.

Twenty moveable dwellings were in use at the end of the year.

Seven moveable dwellings were moved from sites during the year, and 5 unoccupied caravans are on sites in the area.

In many cases applications were received from persons to use a moveable dwelling as a temporary measure sited on land belonging to them on which they wanted to build a house. The relaxation of the licensing system for house building should result in less applications for moveable dwelling licences.

14. REGULATED BUILDINGS

(a) Offensive Trades.

There is one offensive trade premises, a tripe dresser, which is used very little. The premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(b) Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

15. THE OLD METAL DEALERS' ORDER

The Council applied to the Home Office to declare s.86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907 to be in force in the district. This was done and 6 dealers in old metal registered their premises at the Health Department.

16. THE PET ANIMALS' ACT, 1951

Four premises were licensed as pet shops and 34 inspections were made during the year.

Conditions were attached to the licences, requiring:—

(a) At a lock up shop, that pets are removed to other licensed premises when lock up premises are closed.

(b) Licence restricted to fish and birds at one premises and to fish only at another premises.

(c) to the licensee's name being exhibited in a legible form on the front of the premises.

17. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS' ACT, 1951

This Act commenced to operate from 1st November, 1951.

We have 7 registered premises,

Three for upholstery,

One for coach trimming and upholstery,

One for french polishing and upholstery,

One cabinet making and upholstery and

One for general repairs and upholstery.

No premises are licensed for the manufacture or storage of rag flock.

The occupiers of the registered premises buy flock under warranty from licensed manufacturers or from licensed stores.

No contraventions were found during the year, neither were any samples of flock submitted to a prescribed analyst.

18. SMOKE ABATEMENT

44 observations were made on chimneys in connection with 15 premises and 87 inspections were made.

Seven nuisances were discovered, 4 being abated and 3 unabated, all from the same factory chimney, at the end of the year.

Of the 3 nuisances unabated at the end of 1951, 2 have been abated. The nuisances were abated by the following action:—

Three by using coke as the boiler fuel.

Two by extension of the boiler chimney stack, and

One by greater care in stoking.

One of the smoke and soot emission nuisances at a factory in the central part of the town was abated during the year. A new boiler and automatic underfeed stoker which had been on order for over 2 years being fixed.

Almost every factory boiler in use in the district has some form of smoke abatement plant fitted to them.

During the year I reported to the Committee upon the measurement of atmospheric pollution, and they authorised me to obtain particulars of the plant to do this and the cost of its operation. The cost of 4 soot deposit gauges was £68, and the analytical costs would be in the region of £25 per month.

In view of the fact that atmospheric pollution in the district is not a serious problem, and at present there appears to be no likelihood of any large fuel burning plant being installed, it was decided the matter should be left in abeyance.

19. ERADICATION OF VERMIN

40 inspections were made regarding vermin infestations.

One house was dealt with for an infestation of bed bugs.

20. VERMINOUS PERSONS

No verminous persons were cleansed during the year.

21. SWIMMING BATH

Two samples of water were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis and reported as satisfactory.

The swimming bath, which is owned by the Council, has a Royles filtration plant and the Break Point system of chlorination is in use.

HOUSING

22. A. New Houses

Houses, permanent type, completed during the year:—

By local authority	...	...	...	...	187
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	26
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Houses in course of erection at the end of year:—

By local authority	...	...	...	...	192
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	35
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Total number of Post-war houses completed:—

By local authority	...	...	...	...	1,014
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	296
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	...	...	...	...	906
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of applications received during the year					361
---	--	--	--	--	-----

Number of families re-housed since the termination of hostilities:—

(a) in new houses	...	...	...	...	1,010
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(b) in vacancies which have arisen	...	...	...	...	218
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

23. B. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	285
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					846
--	--	--	--	--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...		11
--	-----	-----	-----	--	----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					30
--	--	--	--	--	----

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	11
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	285
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

24. **C. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 274

25. **D. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—**

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) by owners ... 2
(from 1951)
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 2
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) by owners ... 5
(4 from 1951)
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 5
 - (2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 7
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

26. **E. REMOVAL OF UNFIT HOUSES:**

(a) **Clearance Orders**

Two Clearance Orders:—

Area No. 51, High Street, Barwell—2 houses and 8 persons and

Area No. 52, Station Road, Earl Shilton, 4 houses and 11 persons were made and confirmed.

(b) **Demolition Orders**

The following houses were dealt with:—

Tollgate House, Smockington, 2 persons.

22, Mansion Street, Hinckley, 3 persons.

62-64-66, Druid Street, Hinckley, vacant.

All the persons have been re-housed from these premises.

(c) **Houses demolished**

13 houses included in Clearance Orders were demolished and 51 persons displaced, and

7 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished and 9 persons displaced from them.

27. **F. HOUSING SURVEY:**

In February, 1951, to comply with my Statutory duty as Inspector under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932, I prepared a survey programme to bring my knowledge of the sub-standard houses in the district up to date. The survey of 1,314 houses was almost complete at the end of the year, and as it was completed before my Annual Report was prepared, I set out most of the report placed before the Health and Sanitary Committee as part of my 1952 activities.

The essential information for each house has been recorded and the houses have been placed in three groups for treatment. The assessment being based on the Statutory definitions in the Housing Act of 1936 and on the guidance given by the Minister of Health in 1919 and again placed before authorities in 1938.

The Central Housing Advisory Committee recommended that the standard given by the Minister of Health for guidance should replace the present negative standard in the 1936 Act, as the **minimum** standard of fitness to determine whether a house is unfit for human habitation—they also recommended a standard of fitness and amenity by which to determine whether an existing house is **satisfactory** to be used as a target. The Minister of Health in 1947 expressed general agreement with the Committee's recommendations and desires to make such standards effective at the earliest practicable moment.

Classification of Houses

The houses which were scheduled in 1937 have nearly all been included amongst those assessed as Group I.

Group I, therefore includes:—

Houses already scheduled in the 1937 survey and houses in which serious "sanitary defects" exist, the houses fall short of bye-law standard and they are "worn out" and/or congested. These houses may have a life up to about five years.

Group 2.

Houses with the same deficiencies as Group 1. but not to such a serious degree. These houses may have a life varying from 5 to 12 years.

Group 3.

Houses in which "sanitary defects" exist or which fall short of bye-law standard, and whilst being in better condition than Group 2 houses, it is doubtful whether they can be made "fit" owing to fundamental deficiencies in many cases. These houses may have a life varying from 12 to 20 years, or in certain cases, even longer.

The "target" standard referred to earlier requires a hot and cold water supply, a fixed bath, etc., but I have not based any decisions on it. I have, however, set out on the Survey report, the number of houses without a fixed bath or proper food store, etc., to give some idea of the deficiencies in the houses.

TABLE I. HOUSING SURVEY, 1952/3.

	Hinckley Cen. Wards, No. 1 District	Hinckley Cen. Wards, No. 3 District	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	Stoke Gold'g and Wykin V.	TOTALS
Houses Scheduled in 1937 and still to be dealt with			40	30	152	48	270
Houses Surveyed in 1952	418	173	179	178	294	72	1314
In Group 1. . . .	100	56	59	53	134	36	438
In Group 2	269	65	85	95	79	28	641
In Group 3	34	40	30	3	64	3	174
Houses without proper food store	390	144	159	148	268	41	1150
Houses without fixed bath	399	162	172	157	277	72	1239
Water from well or spring		5	3		4	7	19
Water from external standpost	82	29	43	17	121	40	332
Not drained to sewer		13	3	2	5	16	39
With pail closet ..		8	4	2	9	63	86
Using common W.C.	95	107	113	82	260		657
No sink inside house	85	21	35	36	114	15	306
Using sink in com- mon	2		2	2	11		17

Recommendations

Of the 270 houses which were scheduled in 1937, 75 are being prepared for treatment under Part III of the Act.

Six of the houses, included in the survey in the Hinckley Central Wards have since been made subject to Demolition Orders.

I suggest the 438 houses placed in Group I, which includes 239 of the 1937 scheduled houses, should be dealt with as the first part of the programme. When this has been done the 641 Group 2 houses could be re-surveyed and grouped for treatment.

The people in many of these houses have borne the burden of living under very unsatisfactory conditions with fortitude and goodwill. I suggest the houses should be dealt with as promptly as possible and that they should all be dealt with during the next five years.

Wherever possible the houses should be dealt with by Clearance Orders or if it is deemed necessary to obtain the sites for housing redevelopment by Compulsory Purchase Orders.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSES IN GROUP 1.

HOUSING SURVEY, 1952-3

showing the number of occupants in each of the Group I. houses.

	P E R S O N S												TOTAL Houses
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Hinckley Central Wards.													
No. 1 District. Houses	18	24	15	17	14	5	1		1		1	4	100
Hinckley Central Wards.													
No. 3 District	9	11	13	10	7	1	2	2	1				56
Barwell	12	21	9	9	1	2		1				4	59
Burbage	11	13	10	4	4	1	1		1			8	53
Earl Shilton	17	46	26	18	11	1				1		14	134
Stoke Golding and Wykin V.		6	10	7	2		2					9	36
TOTALS ..	67	121	83	65	39	10	6	3	3	1	1	39	438

The purpose of Table 2 is to give some indication of the type of house required for rehousing purposes. 76% of the houses have 4 inhabitants or less and 43% have 2 inhabitants or less. This was not unexpected as the houses being dealt with are mainly old two or four roomed houses with controlled tenancies.

When considering the survey and my recommendations, I think a brief resumé of the action already taken would be helpful to ensure a proper picture being obtained.

In 1932, the Urban District Council, as then constituted, submitted a programme which dealt with 334 houses and 1,379 persons, the Hinckley Rural District Council, for the whole of the then rural area submitted a programme to deal with 20 houses and 60 persons. In both cases the programmes were completed. The standard adopted in the Rural Survey was very much below that

in the Urban, and I was instructed to perform a survey in the outer wards. This was done and 372 houses were scheduled to be dealt with. 42 were dealt with in Stoke Golding in 1937, and 75 houses have been inspected for inclusion in Clearance Orders within the next month or so.

The unfit houses dealt with to date are:—

(a) As Individual Unfit houses.	
137 Demolition Orders made and 368 persons displaced.	
64 demolished following informal action	and 212 persons displaced.
36 houses closed	and 107 persons displaced.
237	687
(b) In Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders.	
418 houses	and 1,303 persons displaced.
(in 52 C.O.'s or C.P.O.'s).	
Total	
655 houses dealt with	and 1,990 persons displaced.

28. **G. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—**
OVERCROWDING

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	11
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	19
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	101
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	8
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	79

The 8 cases of overcrowding were abated by sub-tenants at 4 houses being rehoused or obtaining other accommodation, and 4 were abated by the temporary removal of members of the household.

29. **H. HOUSING SUMMARY**

(a) Total number of occupied houses in district ...	11,884
(b) Total number of Council houses occupied in district	2,564

30. **I. HOUSING ACT, 1949**

No application was received for any reconditioning grants.

31. **J. DEFENCE GENERAL REGULATIONS, 68 A.A. 1939**

Licences have been granted for the temporary occupation of five condemned houses.

32. **RENT RESTRICTION ACTS**

Nineteen cases were dealt with and entered in our register. 27 visits were made by people in connection with these enquiries.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

33. **Milk Supply**

Dairies

Forty inspections were made at 10 registered dairies and 10 contraventions were found. 10 contraventions were abated, 4 from action commenced during 1951.

The contraventions found were:—

- 6 relating to cleansing items,
- 1 structural deficiency and
- 3 relating to utensils.

Distributors

There are 26 on the register and 34 inspections were made in connection with 9 of them. 2 contraventions were found, one, leaving bottles of milk on the footpath was abated, and the second, no name on the vehicle was not abated.

There are two dairies where milk is pasteurised. One has a "Holder" type plant and conditions are good. It is expected that a new bottle washing machine will soon be installed, a new type bottle filling machine was installed during the year. The second dairy has a smaller "Holder" type plant. This dairy is operated under difficult conditions as the business has outgrown the premises.

The other dairies are of the small type and in three cases they are used as milk stores only.

The smaller dairymen seem to be either selling to larger firms or giving up and the trade seems to be mainly confined to the larger firms.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

(a) **Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk**

4 dealers' licences and 1 supplementary licence have been granted to use the designation Pasteurised and 4 dealers' licences have been granted for the sale of Sterilised milk.

(b) Raw Milk

11 dealers' licences have been granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. 4 of the licences are for bottlers and dealers.

The wording on the caps of designated milk bottles is prescribed by the Regulations. In many cases this wording which is quite small is of none or very little significance to the consumer who seems to associate the type of designated milk he is purchasing with the colour of the cap which is used for sealing the bottle. In many instances, this form of identification is advantageous, but the use of various colours for various designated milks should be controlled by Regulations to get uniformity of application.

The customer, the roundsman and everyone else would recognise the type of milk more readily and both the Medical Officer of Health and myself think the trade would welcome such a scheme of standardisation of colours. Furthermore such a change could be effected without any additional expense in most cases.

As far as our district is concerned, one dairy use a gold coloured cap for Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised milk whereas another uses the same coloured cap for Tuberculin Tested Channel Island raw milk and varying colours are used for other designated milks.

Milk Samples

(a) Bacteriological.

	Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled)	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Non- Designated	Pasteurised	TOTAL
SATIS- FACTORY	6	6	17	19	12	60
UNSATIS- FACTORY			1	3		4
TOTAL	6	6	18	22	12	64

The percentage of the samples taken which were found to be unsatisfactory was 6.25%.

13.63% of the non-designated and 5.5% of the Accredited samples were unsatisfactory.

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples last year was 24.32, the highest percentage for many years, and it is pleasing to note the improvement of our samples during the year.

The Pasteurised samples all satisfied the Phosphatase test also.

The County Health Department are responsible for licensing the Pasteurising plants and the County Sanitary Officer is the person who deals with them.

By an informal arrangement between us he kindly sends copies of the results of the bacteriological examination obtained from our two licensed Pasteuring plants. These were as follows:—

						<i>From Dairy A.</i>	<i>From Dairy B</i>
Total number of milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	47	54
Results of Methylene Blue test:—							
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	45	54
Test void	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Results of Phosphatase Test:—							
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	47	54
Bottle Sterility Test:—							
No. of bottles taken	...	...	...	...	...	18	24
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	8	10
Fairly satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
Churn Sterility Test:—							
Total No. of churns	...	...	...	...	...	0	6
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	0	6

The standard used for the bottles and churns is that of the Public Health Labatory, which is:—

Colony Count per Churn

Not more than 50,000	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory
More than 50,000 but less than 250,000	...	...	...	...	Fairly satisfactory
250,000 and over	...	...	...	...	Unsatisfactory

Mean Bottle Count reckoned as per pint bottle

Not more than 600	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory
Over 600 but less than 2,000	...	...	...	...	Fairly satisfactory
Over 2,000	...	...	...	...	Unsatisfactory

(b) Biological Samples ...

Forty-six samples were taken, mainly from producers' premises and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester. 44 of the samples were negative, 1 was positive for tuberculosis and 1 for Br. Abortus.

The type of milk sampled was as follows:—

	Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled)	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Non- Designated	Pasteur- ised	TOTAL
Negative	5	3	16	18	2	44
Tuber- culosis Positive			1			1
Br. Abortus Positive				1		1
TOTAL	5	3	17	19	2	46

Distribution of Milk

	Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled)	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Non- Designated	Pasteur- ised	TOTAL
Producer Retailers only	2		3	11		16
Producer Retailers, Surplus to Pasteur- ising Dairy			4	3		7
Producers send to Pasteurising Dairy only			5	3†		8
Sold to distributor by pro- ducer	3	3	5*	2		13
Pasteurised from Pasteurising Dairy					2	2
TOTAL	5	3	17*	19†	2	46

*Includes 1 positive myco-tuberculosis sample.

†Includes 1 positive Brucella Abortus sample.

The 46 samples were obtained from 30 producers. The number of samples is controlled by the number of guinea pigs available at the Public Health Laboratory and is based on the number of dairymen selling raw milk to the consumers with a few additional samples for check purposes or Adenitis investigation.

Positive Samples

(a) The tuberculosis positive was taken from a distributor who operates from the Accredited producer's dairy and took over the milk directly it had passed over the cooler. The herd had 37 cows and the sample from it was taken as part of our investigations into the cause of a case of Tubercular Adenitis which had been drawn to our attention by the County Health Department following a report from the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The Divisional Veterinary Inspector examined the herd and could not find any infected animal, he therefore recommended that a stoppage notice should be served.

I visited the producer and distributor and they agreed to send their milk to be heat-treated subject to the distributor receiving a raw Accredited milk as an alternative supply.

The Ministry of Food Area Milk Officer agreed to this, but the Area Milk Marketing Board Officer said he could not arrange alternative supplies until a formal stoppage notice was served which we did on the 2nd September.

The second interim report stated no cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, but three group and five individual samples had been taken. A form 'A' notice, requiring the isolation of a suspected cow considered to be responsible for the infection had been served and that the milk from this animal must be kept separate from the bulk supply until the results of the biological tests are known.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer recommended the stoppage notice should be lifted and this was done on the 30th October.

The final report certified the samples from the herd as non-tuberculous and the herd as free from infection on the 16th Dec.

The distributor claimed for the additional cost he had incurred in this matter, but the positive biological sample gave reasonable grounds for suspicion that the milk was infected with Myco. tuberculosis, there was also the person with tuberculous Adenitis who had been having raw milk from this herd for a number of years and the stoppage notice was withdrawn as speedily as possible, therefore the provisions of paragraph 6 (b) and (c) of Regulation 20 did not apply. If the notice had been served on the producer the claim may have had to be met.

(b) The Brucella Abortus positive was from a producer with 15 cows whose milk, with the exception of that retained for home use goes to a pasteurising dairy. The farmer was asked to boil the milk for his household's use and agreed to do so. He was advised to call in his veterinary surgeon, and although I offered to arrange for individual cow samples to be taken to isolate the infected cow or cows in his herd, he did not avail himself of the offer.

ICE CREAM

34. Registered Premises

- (a) (i) Manufacture and Retail 5 (but only 2 manufactured during the year)
- (ii) Manufacture only ... None
- (iii) Retail only ... 86

Sixty-seven inspections were made at 42 premises and 26 contraventions or defects were found, 23 being abated at the end of the year.

The only persons manufacturing ice-cream in the district are two who reconstitute a "complete cold mix".

The majority of retailers sell prepacked ice-cream produced by large manufacturers.

(b) Ice Cream Samples

Twenty samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

Total No. of samples	Grade	No. of samples	Percentage
21	I	11	55%
	II	4	20%
	III	2	10%
	IV	3	15%

These results are slightly worse than those obtained in 1951 and 1950.

The samples were comprised as follows:—

Grade I —1 “complete cold mix”, 1 loose “heat treated” and 9 prepacked samples.

Grade II —1 “complete cold mix” and 3 prepacked.

Grade III—2 prepacked, and

Grade IV—3 prepacked.

All the Grade III and IV samples were produced outside this district. The manufacturers and authorities concerned were notified and the manufacturers were asked to check on their production methods to improve future samples. Repeat samples which were taken showed an improvement, although in one case two repeat samples were graded II and III.

35. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) There is one regional slaughterhouse in the Urban District. Ante-mortem inspection is made on every possible occasion and one hundred per cent. post-mortem inspection takes place.

(b) Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
No. killed (if known)	1048	802	1719	5891	1356	10816
No. inspected ..	1048	802	1719	5891	1356	10816
All Diseases except Tuberculosis ..						Total weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses condemned	4	11	29	35	14	13720
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	306	404	17	1233	284	15002
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29.67%	51.74%	2.67	21.52	21.97	28722
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	23	3		12	23225
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	151	275	1		83	17740
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	15.19	37.15	.232		7.0	40965

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED: 31 tons, 2 cwts., 23 lbs.

(c) **Meat Inspection**

272 more animals were killed than last year, the number 10,816 being the highest since 1946. The increase was in the number of smalls, pigs and sheep, the numbers of cattle being less.

The total weight of meat condemned, surrendered and disposed of for purposes other than human consumption was 31 tons, 2 cwt., 23 lbs., compared with 30 tons, 2 cwt., 45 lbs. last year.

Percentage of animals found to be diseased

This shows little variation from last year, one out of every six cattle, excluding cows, and almost three out of every eight cows examined were infected to a varying degree with Tuberculosis and approximately two out of every five animals examined were affected with some other disease or diseased condition. The variation is in the right direction and it is to be hoped it continues. To avoid obtaining a false picture of the position I must point out that the majority of animals affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis are where either one or more organs which are included in the term offal are affected and not the carcase.

Last year I reported on the slaughterhouse and the general position regarding its operation. The suggestion I made to the slaughterhouse manager that the number of bovines killed per day should be restricted to eighteen was not acted upon. The "kill" fluctuates during the year, and at the peak period it may not be possible, but it is capable of attainment at other times.

Orders have been given for the construction of a gut turning room which will lead to definite improvement in the hygienic condition of the slaughterhouse.

(d) **Other Foods**

The following unsound food was surrendered, condemned and suitably disposed of:—

1,797	tins of luncheon meat,	weight	2,480	lbs.	10	ozs.
9	 stewed steak,	..	45	..	8	..
135	 fish,	..	60	..	15	..
175	 vegetables,	..	210	..	12	..
1,140	 tomatoes,	..	1,528	..	12	..
30	 soup,	..	29	..	4	..
150	 milk,	amount	290	pints.		
594	.. and 37 jars of fruit,	weight	641	lbs.	15	ozs.
3	.. of puddings,	..	3	..		
6	 jam or marmalade,	..	11	..		
1	 chocolate cocoa,	..	—		4	..

		lbs.	ozs.
11 bottles of lime juice.			
275 boxes of cheese	..	75	12 ..
Ham	..	220	8 ..
Veal	..	54	..
Liver	..	63	..
Bacon	..	30	8 ..
Tongue	..	6	..
Pork	..	278	10 ..
Chitterlings	..	297	8 ..
Meat	..	794	..
Sausage	..	80	..
1,674 Faggots and			
51 Meat Pies.			

Examination of Food

(a) Bacteriological

Three samples of food, (1) Pork in natural juices.
 (2) French tinned meat, and
 (3) Intestines and fat from a pig
 were examined, the first two being sterile and the third sample
 being declared negative from Salmonella or Shigella organisms.

(b) Chemical

Two samples were submitted to Mr. F. C. Bullock, the Public
 Analyst to the City of Leicester.

(1) a packet of (Full Cream) Dried Milk Food from a batch
 which had caused illness to a month old baby after feeding on it.

The analyst reported:—

Acidity (calculated as lactic acid)... .. 1.5%

Observations.

The sample had a rancid odour and taste, which sour-
 ness was confirmed by a high acidity (1.5% calculated as
 lactic acid). Normal milk powder is not suitable for edible
 purposes if the acidity exceeds 1%. I am, therefore, of the
 opinion that the sample is not suitable for human consump-
 tion.

The stock of this powder which was withdrawn from sale was
 returned to the manufacturers.

(2) a tin of African Rock Lobster, which had been returned to me as allegedly containing broken glass.

The analyst reported:—

The crystalline material distributed over the surface of this sample was not broken glass but a compound of ammonium phosphate, commonly known as struvite.

This material crystallises out from the natural juices of the fish and is in no way detrimental except by causing a gritty feeling to the teeth.

Food Sampling

The Urban Council is not a Food and Drugs authority, the County Council through their Public Control Department administer these provisions of the Act. I am indebted to Mr. G. G. Powell, Chief Inspector of this department for the following information of the number of samples taken for chemical analysis from traders in our district during 1952.

	Milk	Other than Milk	Total
No. of samples obtained	30	34	64
Genuine	28	34	62
Unsatisfactory	2X	—	2

(X) One sample contained $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of added water. As a result of “Follow up” and “Appeal to Cow” samples the vendor was cautioned. The other unsatisfactory milk sample was deficient in milk fat, but “Appeal to Cow” samples revealed similar low fat content as from the herd. A Ministry of Agriculture Inspector made a routine inspection.

A subsequent repeat sample was satisfactory.

36. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are 9 licensed slaughterhouses, one at Barwell being used as the Central Slaughterhouse. The remainder are used occasionally for the slaughter of cottagers’ pigs. The licences have been renewed for these slaughterhouses upon the occupiers applying and agreeing to them being without prejudice to the provisions of sections 57 and 61 of the Food and Drugs Act.

This condition was asked for to retain the position as existing in October 1939 when the Act commenced to operate. The registered or licensed slaughterhouses at that time were inspected and proposals to refuse renewal of some of the licences or to call for improvements at others were formulated but could not be

acted upon owing to the commencement of centralised slaughtering in January 1940 which put all of them but one out of use.

Whether the private slaughterhouses will again be used as in the pre-1939 days is doubtful. One hears talk of meat rationing finishing, and if this came about I imagine centralised slaughtering in our case would cease. There would be advantages and disadvantages in such a return. One serious disadvantage would be the central situation of the private slaughterhouses and the impossibility of animals reaching them other than by motor truck. In view of the traffic congestion the droving of cattle from the railway station would be a difficult and dangerous job. The Ministry of Food have stated they are prepared to receive local authorities proposals for abattoirs, but as far as I know they have not given any indication of their policy in this respect.

Should Hinckley with a population of 40,000 construct one for the district ?

I have mentioned in previous reports that Hinckley should have an abattoir, and if this cannot be done we should return to the use of private slaughterhouses when they have been improved and brought more into line with present standards, especially regarding the provision of separate cooling halls as distinct from the slaughtering hall.

37. KNACKER YARD

There is one Knacker yard which is situate in Barwell Ward. No nuisance has occurred and the premises are well maintained. 11 inspections were made during the year. The occupier agreed to a condition that all meat, other than that going for maggot manufacturing, should be cooked before leaving the premises, this in addition to the colouring of it by a green dye in accordance with The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) (No. 2) Order 1940.

38. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food hygiene has been constantly under review, 885 inspections have been made to premises where food is manufactured, stored or sold. I stated in last year's Annual Report that I hoped I should be able to report that all premises were satisfactory at the end of 1952. I was too optimistic.

A few of the small traders have a hot water supply of an inadequate type and they have still to provide a constant supply.

Good progress has been made with the protection of food.

More works and schools canteens have been inspected and occasional licensed premises have been inspected.

The following table shows the action taken and the results obtained during the year at the various food premises.

		Ice Cream Premises	Meat Prepar- ing Rooms	Meat Shops	Fried Fish & Chipped Potato Pr'ms	Canteens	Dairies	Bakehouses	Other Premises	Contraven't's Abated from 1951	TOTALS
Premises Visited		118	17	98	91	4	28	54	358	—	768
Inspections	I	81	10	57	48	3	17	30	270	—	506
	R	47	11	55	50	3	23	33	161	—	383
Contraven't's	F	24	12	25	22	8	10	42	195	—	338
or Defects	A	9	12	20	19	5	6	23	132	72	226
Structural	F	—	1	4	6	1	1	2	14	—	29
	A	—	2	4	2	1	1	3	13	12	26
Cleansing	F	1	2	3	3	1	6	13	23	—	52
	A	—	2	1	—	—	4	7	5	6	19
Washing Facilities	F	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	11	—	15
	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	2	13
Constant Hot	F	2	—	3	2	1	—	1	23	—	32
Water Supply	A	1	1	2	4	1	—	—	13	8	22
Equipment	F	7	—	3	1	1	3	2	3	—	20
	A	6	2	3	1	—	1	1	1	3	15
Food	F	6	4	6	1	—	—	11	50	—	78
Protection	A	1	—	7	1	—	—	2	29	15	40
Personal	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Cleanliness	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse	F	1	2	4	1	—	—	1	4	—	13
	A	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
Vermin	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
	A	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
Sanitary	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
Accomm'd't'n	A	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	5	—	9
Redecoration	F	3	3	3	9	1	—	8	35	—	62
	A	2	3	3	9	1	—	8	23	16	49
Miscellaneous	F	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	21	—	28
	A	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	21	8	26

Key to Abbreviations: I—Initial. F—Found. R—Return. A—Abated.

39. BYELAWS, Sec. 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The attention of all food traders has again been drawn to the requirements of these byelaws for the protection of food from varying kinds of contamination.

The protective display cases for the fish traders in the market were provided by the Council and at first they were favourably received. Since then the traders have had an occasional grumble that they cannot get all their fish in them, and they have placed fish on the open stall after first filling the show case. The seriousness of this action has been pointed out to them especially if contamination of any fish takes place.

I regret to have to report the washing and sanitary facilities have not yet been provided for the traders using the open weekly market. The site originally agreed upon was withdrawn by the owner and no other suitable site has yet been obtained.

The open weekly market was inspected 76 times, 17 contraventions being discovered, 10 of them being abated at the end of the year.

40. FOOD POISONING

One notification of food poisoning was received in the second quarter of the year. Two unnotified cases occurred, one in the first quarter and one in the second quarter of the year.

All three cases were individual and not connected with each other. The cases were due to identified agents, 2 to *Salmonella* Newington and 1 to *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

No specific food could be said to be responsible although suspicion fell on ham and watercress, baked beans and fish, respectively. Some of the baked beans were submitted for bacteriological examination and declared to be negative.

The main clinical features of the infected persons were diarrhoea, headache, abdominal pains and vomiting. In two of the cases the illness was not severe, the third case was admitted to hospital and detained there for seven weeks.

The food suspected of causing the illness was consumed at home in two cases and at a canteen in the third case.

Although many enquiries were made and 8 specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory no definite cause of the infection of the persons or contamination of the food was found.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Director of the Public Health Laboratory in the investigation of any cases or suspected cases of food poisoning, and I am grateful to Dr. E. H. Gillespie and Dr. N. S. Mair for assistance in this respect.

41. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(a) There are 228 factories on the register. The trades carried on in these factories are as follows:—

Hosiery Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	89
Underwear Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	9
Boot and Shoe Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	26
Engineering Factories	...	...	...	...	20
Display Studios	...	...	...	...	4
Toy Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1
Carpet Body Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1
Elastic Braid Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1
Public Transport Depots	...	...	...	...	4
Printers	...	...	...	...	6
Cardboard Box Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	5
Builders and Timber Merchants	...	...	...	...	26
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	4
Clothing Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	2
Manufacturing Chemist	...	...	...	...	1

Furniture and Upholstery Repairers	...	...	3
Automobile Engineers	...	...	26
			228

80 inspections were made in connection with 26 premises and 18 contraventions or defects were found regarding the sanitary accommodation.

12 contraventions were abated during the year, and 13 contraventions were abated from action commenced during 1951.

(b) **Outworkers**

The returns of outworkers employed by factories in the Urban District were as follows :

	February	August
Returns received from	7 firms	83 firms
Outworkers employed	100	556
Outworkers living in other districts	15	53

Letters reminding employers of the requirements of the Act were sent to 134 factories at the end of July. Replies were received from 129, 83 of them employed 556 outworkers, 45 sent in a "Nil" return, one firm was closed and no reply was received from 5 of them. The August return of 556 outworkers showed a considerable drop from the August, 1951 return of 980 outworkers being employed by 98 factories.

503 of the outworkers lived in our district and 53 in the surrounding districts as follows :—

NUNEATON B.	16	BLABY R.D.	15
MARKET BOSWORTH R.D.	8	ATHERSTONE R.D.	6
LEICESTER C.B.	3	RUGBY B.	2
COVENTRY C.B.	2	BEDWORTH U.D.	1

We received information from the Leicester C.B. of one outworker being employed by one of their manufacturers.

No instances occurred of outwork being performed in unwholesome premises.

The outworkers are engaged in processes connected with the manufacture of hosiery, and to a lesser degree in those connected with the manufacture of boots and shoes.

42. **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

Our duties under this Act call for constant daily attention. The rat catcher with his "assistants" are fully occupied and they are doing their job efficiently.

Whilst pest destruction work is based on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries prescribed methods, the rat catcher's "assistants," three dogs and two ferrets, are very useful for detecting the presence of rats and destroying the odd nest or so and the

odd rat or so under fowl pens, etc., where difficulty may be encountered in keeping to poisoning methods.

A further aid which has proved most useful in locating and removing infestations from broken drains or sewers is a patent bag stopper which can be placed down the drain on rods and then inflated. This has enabled drains or sewers to be smoke tested where only one inspection chamber is on the system and very good results have been obtained.

The following return was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Infestation Division.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	TOTAL
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	45	11905	99	943	12992
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of	(a)				
(a) notification	—	89	—	23	112
(b) survey or otherwise ..	(b)				
	6	24	3	31	64
III. Number of properties inspected (see Sec. II) which were found to be infested by rats	Major				
	—	—	—	—	—
	Minor				
	6	87	3	39	135
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Sec. II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	9	—	15	24
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	96	3	54	159
VI. Number of Notices served under Section 4.					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ..	NIL.				

The number of minor infestations which were found and dealt with, 135, was considerably less than last year's total of 372, and the same applies to the number of infested properties treated by the rat catcher, 159 as to 409.

Inspections during the year

327 initial inspections and 980 return visits were made.

Contract Premises

31 business premises, the same as last year, were on contract with my department for the disinfection of their premises from rats or mice, and in two cases for crickets or beetles also.

Sewer Baiting

The tenth sewer maintenance treatment was done between the 28th April and the 10th July. The bait base used was sausage rusk and the poison 2½% Zinc Phosphide.

The following table shows the manholes dealt with and the pre-bait takes.

	No. of Man- holes	No. not baited	No. baited	Average		Pre-bait		Takes	
				C.	P.	Total Takes	N.T.		
Hinckley (Central Wards) (Sections 1 and 2) ..	163	46	117	7	11	18	99		
Burbage Ward	207	69	138	23	30	53	85		
Barwell Ward	156	125	31	3	2	5	26		
Earl Shilton Ward ..	217	192	35	2	10	12	23		
TOTALS ..	743	432	321	35	53	88	233		

The scheme of baiting used was on the 1st, 3rd and 5th days.

In addition to the 321 manholes which were baited 140 were test baited during the treatment also.

The sewers keep clear from infestation with the exception of two small groups which repeatedly become re-infested. Representations have been made to the Surveyor regarding action to abate these conditions.

43. STAFF

The establishment is the same as last year, 4 sanitary inspectors, 1 unqualified assistant sanitary inspector, two female clerks and one rat catcher.

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL

Year		Population	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Infant Mor- tality Rate
1899	...	11,019	361	30.08	193	16.08	160.6
1909	...	12,576	335	27.6	190	15.1	146.2
1919	...	13,707	208	12.99	171	11.12	100.9
1924	...	14,266	308	21.13	183	12.6	49.02
1929	...	15,650	294	18.9	223	14.2	71.4
1934	...	16,920	302	17.7	182	10.7	46.0
1939	...	34,360	594	17.2	336	9.6	47.0
1940	...	35,060	601	17.1	364	10.38	47.0
1941	...	35,887	574	15.96	397	11.06	50.5
1942	...	35,044	654	18.66	321	9.11	42.8
1943	...	34,498	681	19.71	328	9.5	36.7
1944	...	34,430	753	21.9	335	9.7	27.9
1945	...	34,400	688	20.0	323	9.3	26.1
1946	...	36,620	855	23.3	366	9.9	44.4
1947	...	37,650	858	22.79	397	10.5	46.8
1948	...	38,580	785	20.39	364	9.4	24.2
1949	...	38,750	691	17.83	396	10.2	27.4
1950	...	39,050	680	17.41	367	9.39	26.85
1951	...	38,980	683	17.5	392	10.05	46.8
1952	...	39,080	605	15.48	348	8.9	26.44

